

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CLUB

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 1955

THE 67th Annual General Meeting of the Club was held in the Caledonian Hotel, Aberdeen, on November 23, 1955. Mr E. W. Smith, the retiring President, who occupied the chair, made sympathetic reference to the death of the Hon. President, Dr R. M. Williamson. Reports were given by the various Office-bearers, and the Chairman made particular reference to the improvements carried out at Derry Lodge during the past summer by members under the supervision of Dr G. A. Taylor.

The Accounts for the year to October 31, 1955, were submitted and approved, and the following Office-bearers were appointed for the ensuing year: *President*, Mr A. Leslie Hay; *Vice-Presidents*, Mr N. F. Dyer and Miss Ada A. Adams. The other Office-bearers were reappointed.

On the motion of Mr A. Leslie Hay, the retiring President was accorded a very hearty vote of thanks for his services to the Club during his three years of office.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 1956

Prior to the 68th Annual General Meeting of the Club, which was held in the Caledonian Hotel, Aberdeen, on November 21, 1956, a Special General Meeting was held to consider proposed amendments to the Constitution. Mr A. L. Hay, President, occupied the Chair and explained that, as instructed at the previous Annual General Meeting, the Committee had carefully considered the qualifications for and classes of membership, and recommended that the existing *Junior* members should henceforth be styled *Associate* members and that the term *Junior* should now be applied to those members between 16 and 18 years of age. The Chairman further explained that the Committee considered it advisable to make an increase in the subscription rate. The proposed amendments were carried by the necessary two-thirds majority, and it was agreed to accept the recommendation of the Committee that the increase in the annual subscription should not apply during the current year. A copy of the amended Constitution is being sent to all members.

At the Annual General Meeting the Reports and Accounts for the year to October 31, 1956, were approved and the following Office-bearers and members of Committee appointed: *President*, Mr A. Leslie Hay; *Vice-Presidents*, Mr N. F. Dyer and Miss A. A. Adams; *Hon. Secretary and Treasurer*, Mr J. E. Bothwell; *Hon. Editor and Librarian*, Dr R. L. Mitchell; *Hon. Meets Secretary*, Mr E. F. Johnston; *Hon. Huts Custodian*, Mr R. Bain; *Hon. Auditors*, Messrs D. Allison and G. G. Cook; *Committee*, Miss S. Murray, Miss E. A. Scott, Messrs A. D. Cameron, P. D. Baird, G. Deans, G. M. McAndrew, W. Wright, Dr G. Mathieson, and Dr B. B. Rae.

Mr L. B. Perkins, who retired from the office of Meets Secretary which he had held for the past four years, was cordially thanked for his services to the Club.

A letter from the Factor for the Fife Estates, reporting on the condition of the Black Bridge on the Derry Road, was submitted, and the Meeting authorised a contribution of fifty guineas towards the cost of repairing the bridge.

ANNUAL DINNERS

The 1955 and 1956 Annual Dinners were held in the Caledonian Hotel, Aberdeen, on the customary date, the last Saturday of November. In 1955 T. D. McKinnon told the story of the successful expedition to Kangchenjunga in the lecture which precedes the dinner. In 1956 Hamish McArthur continued the Himalayan atmosphere with an account of the small expedition to the Lahoul Himalaya, which is described by Millicent McArthur in this number. On each occasion over a hundred members and guests were present, including, in 1956, Lord and Lady Caithness, whom we were delighted to entertain in view of the facilities which the Club enjoys on the Balmoral estates. Col. P. D. Baird took ample advantage of the opportunity to talk about Factors in proposing the toast of "Our Guests"!

INDOOR MEETS

The first meeting of the 1955-56 season was held on October 13 in Provost Ross's house in the Shiprow, and members had a chance of seeing something of the excellent work of reconstruction. Col. P. D. Baird talked of Baffin Land, Norway, and the Cairngorms. On January 30 and February 23, 1956, the meets were in the Palace Restaurant. On the former occasion Mr J. Fenton Wyness showed a collection of slides of places of interest on Deeside, while the latter was a Members' Night. Miss R. E. Stark of the Ladies' Scottish Climbing Club gave a racy description of the Scottish Women's Himalayan Expedition in the the Victoria Restaurant on March 17.

The 1956-57 season opened on October 18 with a talk by Mr G. W. Murray on the Mountains of Egypt in the Palace Restaurant, where on December 13 Dr T. W. Patey described the successful ascent of the Mustagh Tower by a small expedition, all four members of which reached the summit ridge. We are greatly indebted to all who contributed to the success of these indoor meets.

MEETS AND EXCURSIONS

1955

- Oct. 16. Glen Clova.
- Nov. 13. Loch Lee.
- Dec. 16. Hill of Fare.

1956

New Year. Derry Lodge and Killin.

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| Jan. 22. Lochnagar. | May 13. Glen Lyon. |
| Feb. 12. Glen Clunie. | June 3. Ben Avon. |
| Feb. 26. Lochnagar. | Sept. 9. Lochnagar. |
| Mar. 18. Glen Clova. | Oct. 21. Glen Isla-Glen Shee. |
| Easter. Kinlochewe. | Nov. 18. Ben Rinnes. |
| April 22. Derry Lodge. | Dec. 9. Morven. |

The highlight of the year's activities was undoubtedly the Easter Meet at Kinlochewe, where the Club filled the hotel to capacity and spilled into annexe, boarding-house, and tent. The weather resembled or even excelled that of the Inveroran-Bridge of Orchy Meet of 1948, and at least one party on Maol Chean Dearg discarded their shirts—in March! The inaccessibility of A' Mhaighdean was confirmed, the Loch Maree ferryman proving obdurate, despite local information to the contrary—although possibly prior arrangement might have been effective. Most of the other peaks in the district were visited, and one party, transport and all, found themselves securely locked into Glen Grudie after a visit to the south-eastern Fannichs.

At New Year there was the usual gathering at Derry, while a number of members, particularly those from the south, met at Killin, where they experienced one of those evening electricity blackouts reminiscent of Hogmanay at the Invercauld in pre-war days.

Most of the outings passed off with no more than the usual quota of minor emergencies. At Glen Clova, for instance, there was considerable delay at a high level, but the meal at the Airlie Arms, Kirriemuir, was as good as ever.

The traverse from Delnadamph to Invercauld by Ben Avon, and, among the more enthusiastic, Beinn a' Bhuird also, on June 3 was a successful outing, with better weather than usually favours our visits to that area, and the party were reunited at the appointed time—one almost writes "for once"! There was also a good response for the long-distance outing to Glen Lyon, although here the rain made the projects less ambitious than appeared probable during the journey. There is undoubtedly a demand for these one-day trips away from the granite of the Cairngorms. On the other hand, for a number of reasons it proved necessary to abandon the midsummer overnight excursion to Ben Wyvis. Whether or not the members would have followed the leadership of the guide offered, or rather required, by the proprietors was therefore left unanswered.

FARTHER AFIELD

W. D. Brooker reports as follows of his trip to Scoresby Land, East Greenland:—

During July and August 1956 I was with a party prospecting for minerals in the Scoresby Peninsula. Most of this time was spent in the Schuchert Elv, a large valley running from north to south between the Staunings Alper in the west and the Werner Mountains in the east. The Werner Mountains are a small group only about 15 miles across, mostly of unpleasant sedimentary rocks and with a maximum height of 6,000 feet. In the east and south they fade into gentler mountains not unlike our own North-west Highlands. The Staunings Alper form one of the finest mountain regions in Greenland, extending for over 100 miles. Their igneous and metamorphic rocks offer excellent climbing with summits approaching 10,000 feet. In appearance they present a wild tangle of exciting rock spires rising from a maze of huge glaciers. Due to the small annual snowfall these glaciers are very slow-moving and hence remarkably free from crevasses.

Occasionally I succeeded in having a day's climbing with two other members of the party who were fairly willing, if inexperienced. In the Werner Mountains we climbed a small unnamed peak (about 5,000 feet), one of the peaks of the Erzberg (about 5,500 feet), and failed miserably through lack of time on a large